

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5705

C 144 L 09
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Regarding voting rights in special districts.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senator Swecker).

Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections
House Committee on Local Government & Housing

Background: The owner of land located in a special district who is a qualified voter of the special district must receive two votes at any election. If multiple undivided interests, other than community property interests, exists in a lot or parcel and no person owns a majority undivided interest, the owners of undivided interests at least equal to a majority interest may designate in writing:

1. which owner is eligible to vote and may cast two votes; or
2. which two owners are eligible to vote and may cast one vote each.

If land is owned as community property, each spouse is entitled to one vote if both spouses otherwise qualify to vote, unless one spouse designates in writing that the other spouse may cast both votes.

A corporation, partnership, or governmental entity must designate:

1. a natural person to cast its two votes; or
2. two natural persons to each cast one of their votes.

With limited exceptions, no owner of land may cast more than two votes or have more than two votes cast for him or her in a special district election.

Summary: All registered voters within a special flood control district consisting of three or more counties are qualified voters in special flood control district elections.

Special flood control districts consisting of three or more counties are exempt from receiving two votes per land owner.

Special flood control districts consisting of three or more counties are not required to have their elections on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November in the odd-numbered years.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0
House	98	0

Effective: July 26, 2009